

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 5899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING OCTOBER 23; SACEUR'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS
REPORT

REF: A. DPC/A(74)3(NOTAL)

B. USNATO 5129 (NOTAL)

C. STATE 231867 (NOTAL)

D. STATE 205986 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: OCTOBER 23 DPC DISCUSSION OF 1973 ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT TO
SACEUR'S 1972 COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT HIGHLIGHTED UNCHANGED
NATURE OF SACEUR'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT AND HIS CONCERN WITH
SHIFT OF FORCES FROM ASSIGNED TO EARMARKED CATEGORY. SYG RECOM-
MENDED THAT REPRESENTATIVES DRAW ATTENTION OF HIGHEST NATIONAL
POLITICAL AUTHORITIES TO REPORT. PERM REPS SUPPORTED SACEUR
RECOMMENDATION THAT NATO-COMMITTED FORCES BE TRANSFERED BACK
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TO ASSIGNED FROM EARMARKED STATUS, AND URGED SPEEDY MC RESOLUTION
OF ASSIGNED/EARMARKED DEFINITIONS PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING OCTOBER 23 DPC DISCUSSION OF 1973 ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT TO

SACEUR'S 1972 COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS REPORT, SYG SAID SACEUR'S ASSESSMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED AND THAT IT IS FAR FROM REASSURING, ESPECIALLY REGARDING SITUATION ON THE FLANKS. SYG STATED THAT IMPROVEMENTS DEPEND ON COUNTRIES' MEETING THEIR COMMITMENTS AND FORCE GOALS, ADDING THAT INFORMATION SO FAR AVAILABLE FROM THIS YEAR'S DEFENSE REVIEW DOES NOT GIVE HIM GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT THIS WILL COME ABOUT. HE ASKED THAT PERMREPS DRAW ATTENTION OF HIGHEST NATIONAL POLITICAL AUTHORITIES TO SACEUR'S REPORT. SYG ALSO NOTED THREE SPECIFIC SACEUR CONCERNS: CUMBERSOME NATURE OF ALERT SYSTEM (SEPTEL), TENDENCY OF COUNTRIES TO SHIFT NATO FORCES FROM ASSIGNED TO EARMARKED CATEGORY AND INADEQUACY OF MNC'S TERMS-OF-REFERENCE.

2. GENERAL. MCAULIFFE (US), WHO WAS ONLY REP TO COMMENT ON GENERAL THRUST OF SACEUR ASSESSMENT, MADE STATEMENT BASED ON REFS B AND C, EMPHASIZING BOTH OPPORTUNITY FOR 1974 DEFENSE REVIEW TO MONITOR AGGREGATE NATIONAL EFFORTS AND IMPORTANCE OF NATO LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT TO HIGHLIGHTING PRIORITIES FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS. MCAULIFFE ADDED PERSONAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION FOR GENERAL GOODPASTER'S FRANK, OPEN AND CANDID EXPRESSION OF MILITARY JUDGEMENTS FOR DPC USE DURING HIS TOUR AS SACEUR. SYG AND PERMREPS ADDRESSING THIS AGENDA ITEM ECHOED THIS PERSONAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION.

3. SHIFT FROM ASSIGNED TO EARMARKED FORCES. DURING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, SYG LUNS SAID NATO FOUNDERS ENVISAGED THAT ALLIES WOULD PLACE ALL STANDING FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO IN ASSIGNED CATEGORY AND THAT MOST ALLIES HAD DONE SO UNTIL 1969. LUNS CITED POST-1969 TREND AMONG ALLIES TO SHIFT ASSIGNED FORCES TO EARMARKED STATUS; SAID ALLIES HAVE NOW PLACED NEARLY ALL CENTRAL REGION STANDING FORCES EXCEPT AIR DEFENSE IN EARMARKED CATEGORY; BLAMED QUOTE UNFORTUNATE TREND END QUOTE ON NATION'S MISUNDERSTANDING EXISTING DEFINITIONS FOR ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED CATEGORIES; NOTED ONGOING MILITARY COMMITTEE EFFORTS TO CLARIFY THESE DEFINITIONS; AND ASKED DPC PERMREPS TO ENDORSE TRANSFER OF STANDING FORCES BACK TO ASSIGNED CATEGORY. LUNS SAID ANY REVISION TO MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS' TERMS-OF-REFERENCE SHOULD
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AWAIT APPROVAL OF NEW DEFINITIONS FOR ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED CATEGORIES AND BE COMPATIBLE WITH BASIC DOCUMENTS FROM THE 1954 LONDON CONFERENCE.

4. AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) ASKED WHY NATO ANNUAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS DID NOT PREVENT NATIONS FROM TRANSFERRING FORCES FROM ASSIGNED TO EARMARKED CATEGORY. ASYG HUMPHREYS RESPONDED THAT NATIONS THEMSELVES CHOOSE ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED CATEGORIES WHEN SUBMITTING ANNUAL RESPONSES TO NATO DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRES, THAT NATIONS HAVING MISINTERPRETED DEFINITIONS FOR ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED CATEGORIES, AND THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE AND DRC ARE WORKING ON A PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY THESE DEFINITIONS. LT GEN SHAEFER (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF MC)

ADDED THAT REVISED DEFINITIONS WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFER EARMARKED FORCES BACK TO ASSIGNED CATEGORY; EACH ALLY WOULD STILL HAVE TO TRANSFER ITS FORCES. DE STAERCKE SAID THAT ALLOWED NATIONS TO USE SOVEREIGNTY TO QUOTE GET AROUND BASIC PRINCIPLES END QUOTE AND SUGGESTED NATO INFORM NATIONS SO DISPOSED THAT QUOTE THEY HAVE RIGHT TO DO IT, BUT IT IS NOT VERY PRETTY END QUOTE.

5. MCAULIFFE, DRAWING FROM REF D, DAID US WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS CONCERNS OF GENERAL GOODPASTER AND AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE ABOUT TRANSFER OF NATO-COMMITTED FORCES FROM ASSIGNED TO EARMARKED STATUS, PARTICULARLY TO EXTENT THIS TRANSFER HAMPERS SACEUR'S PEACETIME ABILITY TO TRAIN AND PREPARE FORCES HE WOULD CONTROL IN WAR. MCAULIFFE SAID US IS PREPARED TO GRANT SACEUR ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY IN THIS AREA OVER US FORCES IN EUROPE PROVIDED ALLIES DO LIKEWISE. REFERRING TO ONGOING MC EFFORTS TO REVISE ASSIGNED/EARMARKED DEFINITIONS, HE CALLED FOR MAXIMUM AND SPEEDY EFFORT. LUNS SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT US WILL MOVE IN SACEUR'S DIRECTION ON UNDERSTANDING THAT OTHERS DO THE SAME. MCAULIFFE.

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SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
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